

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:DFSMITH:BCL

APPROVED BY EA - LESTER EDMOND

EA/ANP - MR. KNOWLES

EB/OA - MR. STYLES

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R 292335Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: TOKYO-Saipan ROUTE AWARD

REF: STATE 221956

1. JAPANESE DCM NISHIDA MET WITH DEP ASST SECY EDMOND SEPT 29 IN RESPONSE TO EDMOND REQUEST FOR AMPLIFICATION ON GOJ VIEWS CONCERNING TOKYO-Saipan ROUTE AWARD. EDMOND NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF VARIOUS INTERNAL FACTORS BEARING ON PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON CAB RECOMMENDATION, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE CERTAIN THAT GOJ VIEWS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD.

2. NISHIDA STATED THAT GOJ BELIEVED THAT AWARD TO CONTINENTAL, WHILE INTERNAL USG DECISION, WOULD BE VERY UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE INSERTION OF NEW CARRIER WOULD BE LIKELY TO RESULT IN MUCH GREATER COMPETITIVENESS, FURTHER AGGRAVATING IMBALANCE IN US-JAPAN AVIATION RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT CONTINENTAL ALREADY HAS MICRONESIA AS A HINTERLAND WHICH IT COULD USE AS A BASE FOR CHANNELING MORE
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PASSENGERS INTO TOKYO, WHILE PANAM HAS NO FLIGHTS ORIGI-

NATING IN SAIPAN. GOJ, HE SAID, WOULD FIND AWARD TO PANAM ALSO OBJECTIONABLE WITH RESPECT TO AVIATION IMBALANCE, BUT COULD ACQUIESCE IN DECISION IN FAVOR OF PANAM, UNLESS PANAM SHOULD USE AWARD TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS FREQUENCIES AND LOAD FACTOR TO JAPAN. THUS IN RETREAT FROM HIS POSITION PARA 2 REFTEL NISHIDA INDICATED GOJ REGARDS AWARD TO PANAM AS LESSER OF TWO EVILS.

3. NISHIDA ALSO REFERRED TO CONGESTION AT HANEDA AND OSAKA AIRPORTS AND ASSERTED THAT THERE ARE ALREADY A NUMBER OF CARRIERS SEEKING GOJ APPROVAL FOR SERVICE THERE. HE STATED THAT IF CONTINENTAL DID OBTAIN SAIPAN-TOKYO ROUTE, IT WOULD HAVE TO WAIT IN LINE BEHIND OTHERS AND IMPLIED THAT GOJ APPROVAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL OPENING OF NEW NARITA AIRPORT SERVING TOKYO.

4. NISHIDA SAID THAT IF AWARD WERE MADE TO CONTINENTAL GOJ WOULD RESERVE RIGHT TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR JAPANESE AIR LINES. IN EVENT THAT PANAM OBTAINED ROUTE, GOJ WOULD RESERVE THIS RIGHT IF PANAM WERE TO EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY FREQUENCIES AND LOAD FACTOR TO JAPAN. INGERSOLL

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